(b) if so, whether the terms and conditions in this regard have been finalised; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shortage of engineers and aviation specialists in Air Force

†2615. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air Force is facing a shortage of engineers and aviation specialists;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step so far to remove this shortage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) While there is an overall shortage of engineers and aeronautical engineers in the Indian Air Force, the combat units are being manned almost at 100% level by making some internal adjustments.

Sustained publicity efforts are on to attract talented youth to the IAF. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly to generate interest. A website is also operative on the internet to provide career information.

Secret Message Faxed to V.P. Singh

2616. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Sensitive Defence message lands on V.P. Singh's FAX" published in the 'Times of India' dated the 20th July, 2001;

(b) if so, how a secret message was faxed in such a irresponsible manner and who is responsible for the same;

(c) whether similar secret messages are Faxed to the enemies;

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking immediate action in this regard; and

(e) the action being taken by Government to protect the Nation from such anti-national activities of the employees?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.